

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An execution control instruction is applied to an information processor of the type processing instructions by pipelining to suppress the occurrence of branch hazard. The
5 execution control instruction contains: a condition field for specifying an execution condition; and an instruction-specifying field for defining, in binary code, the number of instructions to be executed only conditionally. In response to the execution control instruction, a nullification
10 controller decides, based on control flags provided from an arithmetic logic unit, whether or not the execution condition specified by the condition field is satisfied. And based on the outcome of this decision, the controller determines whether or not that number of instructions, which has been
15 defined by the instruction-specifying field for instructions succeeding the execution control instruction, should be nullified. If the controller has determined that the specified number of succeeding instructions should be nullified since the execution condition is not met, then the
20 controller asserts a nullification signal to be supplied to the arithmetic logic unit. In this manner, a large number of succeeding instructions are executable conditionally using an execution control instruction of a short word length.